

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claim 11 is added via this amendment.

SPECIFICATION:

The Examiner requests a new Title that is more indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Applicant amends the Title to recite PHOTOGRAPHY DEVICE HAVING A LENS BARRIER.

35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takanashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,450,708) in view of Okuda (U.S. 2004/0165108). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection in view of the following remarks.

An aspect of the present invention is to provide a photography device with a simple structure, which is capable of opening and closing a lens barrier without risk of damaging or breaking a lens barrier, a lens barrel or the like. (See present specification, page 2, lines 20-22.)

An exemplary feature of the invention is a boss 82 that is protruded from a lens barrel 16b. The boss 82 rotates in a circumferential direction with the lens barrel 16b. (See present specification, page 7, lines 19-23.) When a grip switch 24 is moved from an on position to an off position, a lens barrier 32 is initially kept disposed at an open position. After the boss 82 is brought into contact with a surface 80 of a stopper member 66, by rotation of the lens barrel 16b, the boss 82 moves the stopper member 66 to an unlocking position. (See present specification,

page 8, lines 2-4.) Thus, the lens and lens barrel are protected from being abutted by the lens barrier because the lens barrier is not moved until the lens barrel is rotated.

Applicant further defines claim 1 to describe a lens barrel that has a protrusion disposed to rotate and abut a portion of the stopper member to release the lens barrier. The combination of Takanashi and Okuda fails to teach or suggest at least the claimed protrusion along with its interaction with the other claimed features, such that the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. The rejection of dependent claims 2-6 and 8-10 should likewise be withdrawn at least by virtue of these claims depending from claim 1.

NEW CLAIM:

The Examiner has indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claim 11 is added to incorporate the features of claims 7, 5, 3, 2 and 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 10/781,899

Attorney Docket No.: Q79852

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

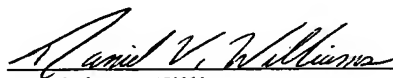
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